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Statement by the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission's configuration on Guinea-Bissau

On behalf of the Peacebuilding Commission's configuration on Guinea-Bissau, I join the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council in condemning the assassination of the President of Guinea-Bissau, João Bernardo Vieira, and the Chief of the General Staff, Tagme Na Waie, on 1 and 2 March 2009, and express my deep concern over these tragic events.

I reiterate the Peacebuilding Commission's continued support for and engagement with the peacebuilding process in the country. In this context, I call upon the international community to continue assisting Guinea-Bissau in the implementation of the Strategic Framework and in the organization of the upcoming presidential elections.

I underline the importance for all stakeholders to maintain their commitments to the peace consolidation process in Guinea-Bissau, in order to ensure that the recent developments do not put at risk past achievements and the future prospects. I remain confident that Guinea-Bissau will peacefully resolve the current political crisis within the constitutional framework, and I encourage the international community to intensify its support to enable Guinea-Bissau to overcome the underlying factors of instability that hamper the country's progress towards sustainable peace and development.

New York, 3 March 2009

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